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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/527,616	03/08/2005	Kikuo Makase	ADACHI-001XX	7247
28452	7590	07/17/2007	EXAMINER	
BOURQUE & ASSOCIATES			HEINRICH, SAMUEL M	
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ATTORNEYS, P.A.				
835 HANOVER STREET			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
SUITE 301			1725	
MANCHESTER, NH 03104				
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			07/17/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/527,616	MAKASE ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Samuel M. Heinrich	1725	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 18 September 2006 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1-15 and 20, second paragraph, "the welding corresponds to laser welding, and a laser beam is directed" is not clear. Is the "laser beam" used for the laser welding? Clear description is required.

Claims 1 and 16, last three lines, "located at a place where no stress concentration occurs" and "located at a place where stress concentration due to external forces ... are minimized" are not clear description. No external forces have been described in the claims.

Claim 2, "a longer welding path than a crater" is not a clear description.

Claim 3, "having at least one round" is not a clear description.

Claims 5, 9-11, 15, and 18, "may be for use in" is not a clear description.

All dependent claims include the unclear limitations of the respective base claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and

the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 1-5, 7-11, 16-18, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of DE19627913A1 in view of JP354058641A. AAPA discloses well known flange welding (Specification pages 1 and 2, Background Art). The mother member, or pipe, and the flange part are disclosed by AAPA, e.g., see Figures 4A and 4B. DE19627913A1 shows (Figures 1, 2C, and 3) meandering beads. JP354058641A describes (Abstract Constitution) "the weld lines do not converge ... accumulation of residual stress, etc. are prevented." The use of a meandering weld line would have been obvious at the time applicant's invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art because it provides longer life to the weld joint and reduces cracking.

Claims 6, 12-15, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of DE19627913A1 and in view of JP354058641A as applied to claims 1 and 16 above, and further in view of

JP411077353A. JP411077353A discloses well known long-focus laser beam in combination with a mirror. The use of well known machining apparatus setup in a laser welding method would have been obvious at the time applicant's invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art because the setup provides good beam positioning over a wide range of work pieces.

Claims 1-5, 7-11, 16-18, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of JP401321084A and in view of JP354058641A. AAPA discloses well known flange welding (Specification pages 1 and 2, Background Art). The mother member, or pipe, and the flange part are disclosed by AAPA, e.g., see Figures 4A and 4B. JP401321084A describes well known shaping of a bead pattern in order to improve weld strength and quality, e.g., see Figures 1-4. JP354058641A describes (Abstract Constitution) "the weld lines do not converge ... accumulation of residual stress, etc. are prevented." The use of a meandering weld line would have been obvious at the time applicant's invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art because it provides longer life to the weld joint and reduces cracking.

Claims 6, 12-15, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of JP401321084A and in view of JP354058641A as applied to claims 1 and 16 above, and further in view of JP411077353A. JP411077353A discloses well known long-focus laser beam in combination with a mirror. The use of well known machining apparatus setup in a laser welding method would have been obvious at the time applicant's invention was made to

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a person having ordinary skill in the art because the setup provides good beam positioning over a wide range of work pieces.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Samuel M. Heinrich whose telephone number is 571-272-1175. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, J. Johnson can be reached on 571-272-1292. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Samuel M. Heinrich
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1725

SMH